10 circular investment opportunities for a resilient recovery

**Built environment**
Shaping a liveable, cost-effective, and low-carbon built environment

1. Renovation and upgrade of buildings
2. Building materials reuse and recycling infrastructure

- Every EUR 1 invested in energy-efficiency renovations can yield EUR 3 in public finance returns.1
- Utilising recycled or reused steel for building construction could generate up to 25% in material cost savings per tonne of steel.2
- The processing of recycled aggregates compared to virgin ones could reduce GHG emissions by 40% or more.3

**Mobility**
Shaping an interconnected, low-carbon, and resilient mobility system

3. Multimodal mobility infrastructure
4. Automotive refurbishment, remanufacturing, and repair infrastructure

- Multimodal mobility systems could bring USD 1.6 trillion in benefits in 2030 for China, assuming 42% of all car kilometres were made by shared vehicles.4
- Multimodal mobility systems reduce global CO₂ emissions by 70% or 0.4 billion tonnes of CO₂ in 2040.5

**Food**
Shaping a resilient, healthy, and food-secure food system

9. Tools enabling farmers to shift to regenerative agricultural production
10. Food surplus and by-product collection, redistribution, and valorisation infrastructure

Plastic packaging
Shaping a more competitive and less polluting plastic packaging industry where plastics are kept in circulation

5. Innovative reuse business models for plastic packaging
6. Plastic collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure

- Replacing just 20% of single-use plastic packaging with reusable alternatives globally offers an economic opportunity worth at least USD 10 billion, while saving about 6 million tonnes of material.6
- Returnable packaging market projected to grow from USD 37 billion in 2018 to USD 59 billion by 2026 (across industries).7
- The processing of recyclables can sustain about 20 times more jobs than landfill, and plastic manufacturers making use of recycled materials, about 100 times more.8

**Fashion**
Shaping a competitive and low-carbon fashion industry that promotes increased utilisation

7. Rental and resale business models for clothing
8. Clothing collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure

- Compared to buying new, one pre-owned purchase is said to save on average 1kg of waste, 1,040 litres of water, and 22kg of CO₂.9
- The secondhand market is projected to reach nearly twice the size of fast fashion by 2029, with resale models expected to drive the increase (growth projected at 41% in the next five years).10

- The lost value of textile waste amounting to more than USD 100 billion annually could be retained, by capturing and recirculating materials.11
- 71% of customers are expressing a greater interest in circular business models, such as rental, resale, and refurbishment, as well as investing in higher quality apparel following the pandemic.12

**Food system**
Industry that promotes increased utilisation

- Spending USD 78–116 billion (on accelerating the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices) could save USD 2.3–3.5 trillion in lifetime operational costs.13
- 72% of Europeans have reported a greater willingness to put effort into healthier eating in the future.14

- Reducing edible food surplus and increasing the composting of inedible by-products and green waste could save 1.7 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually.15

- The number of EVs on the road is expected to reach almost 10 million this year, as sales grow despite the Covid-19 pandemic.16

- The remanufacturing of vehicles parts can increase skilled labour requirements by up to 120%.17

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